

In the Claims

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1 1. [Currently Amended] An image forming monitoring
2 method comprising:
3 storing information regarding a plurality of con: form hard
4 images, wherein the stored information for an individual one of the consumables includes
5 a stored consumable identifier which identifies the respective consumable and a stored
6 party identifier utilized to identify a proper party of the respective consumable;
7 receiving information regarding a consumable to be verified including a received
8 consumable identifier which identifies the consumable to be verified and a received party
9 identifier utilized to identify the proper party associated with the consumable to be
10 verified;
11 comparing the received consumable identifier with at least one of the stored
12 consumable identifiers;
13 comparing the received party identifier with at least one of the stored party
14 identifiers;
15 outputting a message responsive to the comparings to indicate use of the
16 consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party who is not authorized to use the
17 consumable; and
18 wherein the comparing the received consumable identifier comprises comparing
19 the received consumable identifier with ~~a plurality~~ at least one of the stored consumable
20 identifiers, further comprising matching the received consumable identifier with one of the
21 stored consumable identifiers, and wherein the comparing the received party identifier
22 comprises comparing after the matching.

1 2. [Canceled].

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 1 further comprising forwarding a
2 command to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be verified to
3 disable at least one operation of the image forming device coupled with the consumable
4 to be verified responsive to the comparings.

1 4. [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 forwarding another message comprising a warning message to an image forming device
3 coupled with the consumable to be verified responsive to the comparings.